United Nations

Press Release

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General presents to Security Council guidelines to ensure implementation of arms embargo against Iraq.

- Secretary-General meets with President of Sierra Leone during two-day visit to country.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council extension of mandate of peace-keeping force in Cyprus, which he says is facing "chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis".

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has presented to the Security Council, following consultations with appropriate Governments, a set of guidelines to ensure the implementation of the arms embargo against Iraq, including a comprehensive list of the military material to be prohibited.

The list, contained in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council of 2 June, includes the categories of arms that had been barred from sale to Iraq, under Security Council resolution 661, including conventional arms, biological weapons, all nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapons-usable material, all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, and any spare parts and components from which to make any of the weapons.

The Secretary-General was asked by the Council's cease-fire resolution of 3 April to provide it with such information.

In his report to the Council, the Secretary-General recommended that its Sanctions Committee monitor the arms embargo and report to the Council every three months.

The Council's embargo prohibits all research, development and facilities for manufacturing or repairing weapons and forbid Iraq from acquiring the appropriate technology and personnel relating to the design, development, manufacture, use, or maintenance of such weapons.

(more)

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In addition, the Secretary-General is recommending that international organizations take appropriate steps to assist in ensuring full compliance with the arms embargo, including providing the Committee with any relevant information they may come to their attention.

He also recommended that countries cooperate with each other bilaterally or within the framework of existing regional arrangements to make the arms embargo against Iraq airtight and that they report to him within 45 days on the measures they have instituted to ensure that no weapons or dual-purpose items were exported to Iraq.

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The Secretary-General is currently on a two-day official visit to Sierra Leone.

This morning in Freetown, he met with President Joseph S. Momoh of Sierra Leone with whom he discussed the country's economic situation. The President praised the constructive role of the United Nations in Sierra Leone. They also discussed regional security issues, including the situation in Liberia and the problem of the flow of Liberian refugees into Sierra Leone. President Momoh then briefed the Secretary-General on his country's democratization process and the drafting of the new constitution.

The Secretary-General is scheduled to meet the press in Freetown before leaving for Conakry on a three-day official visit to Guinea.

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The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) be extended for another six months, until 15 December.

In his report to the Security Council of 31 May, the Secretary-General said he had no doubt that the continued presence of the Force on the island remained "indispensable" to efforts to return the country to normal conditions.

He stated that UNFICYP was facing "a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis", which imposed a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries. A previous recommendation to finance the operation from assessed contributions was currently being examined, he said.

According to the report, the cost of maintaining UNFICYP for the next six months is estimated at $15.4 million.

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